

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters  
Patent of the United States is:

5           1.     An image forming apparatus comprising:  
            a development mechanism configured to develop an  
electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member  
into a visual image;

            a toner storage detachably installed and configured to  
10   store toner therein;

            a toner transporting mechanism configured to transport  
the toner from the toner storage to the development mechanism;  
and

            a supporting device configured to detachably support the  
15   toner storage therein and to move between a set position at  
which the toner storage is engaged with the toner transporting  
mechanism and a tilt position at which the toner storage is  
disengaged from the toner transporting mechanism.

20           2.     The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1,  
wherein the set position of the supporting device is located  
underneath a control panel of the apparatus.

            3.     The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1,  
25   wherein the supporting device at the tilt position extends out  
such that at least a portion of the toner storage supported by  
the supporting device projects from an outside surface of the

apparatus.

4. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1,  
further comprising a nozzle for transporting the toner,  
5 wherein the toner storage comprises a sack for containing  
toner and a ring portion having a toner discharging unit at a  
bottom portion of the sack, and the toner transporting  
mechanism transports the toner in the toner storage to the  
development mechanism when the nozzle is connected to the ring  
10 portion.

5. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 4,  
wherein the nozzle connects to and disconnects from the ring  
portion when the toner storage is inserted into and extracted  
15 from the supporting device.

6. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 4,  
wherein the nozzle is inserted into and extracted from the  
ring portion when the supporting device moves between the set  
20 position and the tilt position.

7. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 6,  
wherein the toner storage includes a shutter configured to  
close the toner discharging unit of the toner storage and the  
shutter replaces the nozzle and moves between a closed  
25 position and an opened position of the toner discharging unit.

8. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 7,  
wherein the supporting device comprises an interlocking  
mechanism configured to move between the closed position and  
the opened position of the shutter in conjunction with  
5 insertion and extraction of the nozzle.

9. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a development mechanism configured to develop an  
electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member  
10 into a visual image;

a toner storage detachably installed and configured to  
store toner;

a toner transporting mechanism configured to transport  
the toner from the toner storage to the development mechanism;  
15 and

a supporting device configured to detachably support the  
toner storage and to move between a set position at which the  
toner storage is engaged with the toner transporting mechanism  
and a projecting position at which the toner storage is  
20 disengaged from the toner transporting mechanism.